

Sunday, May 10th, 2020

Today is Mother's Day. I am grateful my mother is well during the Covid-19 pandemic. I refrained from visiting her in Watsonville to avoid exposing her to the virus. I have not had any symptoms but you can be asymptomatic and spread it to others so it's safer to stay away from her. The most common ways of spreading the virus is via talking, breathing, coughing, sneezing, sweating, or flushing of the toilet. We were advised by Governor Newsom and other officials to refrain from going out of our homes unless it's absolutely necessary.

Instead of visiting my mother I went for a walk to Alviso in north San Jose. My boyfriend and I were lucky to find the last parking spot at the park. We walked away from the marina trail as it was very busy. We chose instead to walk the opposite way to avoid the crowds and went on the train tracks which I thought hadn't been used for decades. I was surprised to hear the train horn about an hour into our walk. The day was beautiful with blue skies and mild temperatures. During the walk we saw small black birds with cherry red shoulders. There were rocks that shimmered with glitter under the sun. Ducks were swimming in the marina and bones of deceased birds and four legged creatures on our path.

As we walked, my boyfriend and I contemplated on how much we give for granted. In the last two months we have not been to sit-down restaurants, State parks, movie theaters, dog parks or salons and barber shops. While sitting at home we've started so many plans in our heads and within minutes stopped ourselves with oh, we can't go out; oh, the virus is everywhere; oh, I have to stay home and avoid gatherings.

During our walk my boyfriend commented that this morning when he went to wash his car the business owner approached him and thanked him for supporting his business. He had been closed for over a month and yesterday was the first day the county allowed him to reopen. My boyfriend felt empathy for him. It must be difficult staying in business when there is no revenue coming in. The doggy day care owner we know also has been under a lot of stress. He had to lay off his employees until further notice. He is the only one running the business spending 14 hours a day there. He is not offering the usual 24 hour service. The donut shop owner told us that he's selling about 60-70% less in the past few months. I feel very blessed because I've been able to stay employed with the Martin Luther King Jr. Library.

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